Quarterly Population Report

First Quarter 2016

Record Numbers of Immigrant Offset Interprovincial Losses[1]

Alberta's first quarter population growth led the country despite its economic woes. Record-setting immigration more than compensated for net outflows of interprovincial migrants and non-permanent residents. Alberta's relatively young population ensured that natural increase continued to significantly support growth.

As of April 1st, 2016, Alberta was home to 4,249,842 people, an addition of 17,883 new residents this quarter; an absolute gain surpassed only by Ontario.

After falling behind Manitoba last quarter, Alberta's growth once again outstripped all others, posting first quarter growth of 0.42%, well above the national average (0.30%). Of the provinces, Manitoba had the second highest growth at 0.38%.

Net international migration was responsible for most of Alberta's fourth quarter expansion, contributing 0.28%. The impact of natural increase continued to be significant (0.18%), while net outflows to other regions of Canada put downward pressure on the growth rate, shrinking the province's population by 0.04%.

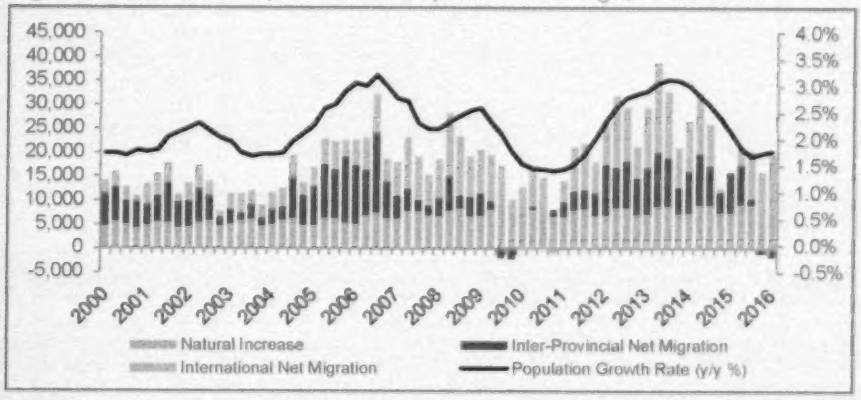
On an annual basis, the strong showing this quarter meant that Alberta led the provinces with 1.78%[2] in annual growth, over half a percentage point higher than the Canadian average (Table 1). In absolute numbers, Alberta added over 74,000 new residents; only Ontario added more (Table 2). Despite this large addition, annual first quarter growth continued to moderate off its highs and was the lowest since 2011 (Figure 1).

1 All data are from Statistics Canada. Estimates from 2007–2016 are based on the 2011 Census adjusted for net census undercount and incompletely enumerated Indian Reserves. All estimates are subject to revision.

Table 1: Population & Growth Rates Canada and Alberta

Population			Yearly Growth Rate		
1-Apr	Canada	Alberta	1-Apr	Canada	Alberta
2011	34,230,654	3,768,845	2011	1.01%	1.44%
2012	34,621,857	3,856,593	2012	1.14%	2.33%
2013	35,022,076	3,969,000	2013	1.16%	2.91%
2014	35,420,519	4,088,434	2014	1.14%	3.01%
2015	35,754,786	4,175,701	2015	0.94%	2.13%
2016	36,155,487	4,249,842	2016	1.12%	1.78%

Figure 1: Alberta Components of Population Change, 1st Quarter



Migration

Over half of Alberta's growth this quarter was driven by migration, which added 10,262 new residents to the province. This was up slightly from the same quarter last year, but

2 This growth represents year-over-year variation (April 1, 2015 to April 1, 2016).

Table 2: Population of Provinces/ Territories as of April 1, 2016 and Growth Rates since April 1, 2015

	Population	Growth Rate (y/y)
Canada	36,155,487	1.12%
NL	528,448	0.06%
PEI	147,390	0.83%
NS	947,284	0.52%
NB	755,868	0.22%
QC	8,310,708	0.79%
ON	13,920,499	1.22%
MB	1,308,912	1.51%
SK	1,146,655	1.43%
AB	4,249,842	1.78%
BC	4,720,932	1.04%
YT	37,294	0.64%
NWT	44,340	0.43%
NVT	37,315	2.12%

about half the level seen in 2014. Net international migration more than offset net interprovincial outflows.

Interprovincial migration

Heavily influenced by economic conditions in the province, net interprovincial migration dipped into negative territory between January and March, with a net outflow of 1,788 people (Table 4). This was the second straight quarter of net losses for Alberta. For the first time in over six years, Alberta had the largest net outflow of interprovincial migrants in the country. This is a stark reversal of the recent trend which saw Alberta gain the largest number of net interprovincial migrants for 19 straight quarters between 2010-2015.

Most of the country experienced first quarter net outflows of interprovincial migrants. Following last quarter's trend, British Columbia and Ontario were the only two regions in the country to have sizeable net interprovincial migration gains (5,067 and 1,101 respectively). Alberta saw the largest net losses, followed by Saskatchewan (-1,316) and Quebec (-1,221) (Table 3).

For the eight straight quarter, Alberta lost people to British Columbia (-2,628). This net outflow seems to be picking up steam, as the number Alberta loses to its western neighbour has been increasing. Net outflows to Ontario continued for a second straight quarter, with Alberta losing 664 people to the largest province in the country (Map 1).

Alberta saw a modest net gain of migrants from the rest of the provinces, with most arriving from Saskatchewan (749) (Table 3).

Net International Migration

Net international migration was the major contributor to Alberta's growth this quarter. Record-setting immigration levels compensated for continued net outflows of non-permanent residents (NPRs). Alberta welcomed 12,050 net new residents from outside of Canada, a very strong first quarter gain.

The first quarter of 2016 marked a new record for immigrant landings in Alberta, with the addition of 15,356 new permanent residents (Table 4). While this is almost twice as high as the same quarter last year, Alberta's share of Canadian immigrants was slightly lower than the previous two quarters (17.8%). Only Ontario had a higher share of immigrants this quarter (37.0%). Some Syrian refugees landed in Alberta in the first quarter, however these refugees have not been landing in large enough numbers to account for all Alberta's record setting immigration.

The Government of Canada recently announced its immigration target, aiming to welcome between 280,000-305,000 new permanent residents in the 2016 calendar year[3]. The first quarter gave Canada a good start on achieving this target, with just over 86,000 immigrants entering the country. This was the highest quarterly number of landings in the data series, which began in 1971.

3 For more information, please see: *2016 Immigration Levels Plan*

For the sixth quarter in a row, Alberta experienced net outflows (-1,900) of non-permanent residents (NPRs), although these flows were more muted than the outflows of the same quarter last year. Alberta was the only region this quarter to experience sizeable net outflows, with Canada welcoming a net inflow of NPRs, the vast majority settling in Ontario. The net outflows have been reducing Alberta's stock of NPRs, which currently sits at around 90,000. This was down 2% from last quarter, making this the smallest loss since the net outflows began.

Alberta has been the only province in the country to see persistent net outflows of NPRs since the Temporary Foreign Worker Program policy changes were implemented. Alberta has had a net outflow of over -29,000 NPRs since the fourth quarter of 2014. The next biggest loss was half of Alberta's; British Columbia, which was over -14,000.

Natural increase

Alberta added 7,621 new residents in the first quarter of 2016 from natural increase. This is a result of 14,240 births minus 6,619 deaths (Table 4). The province continues to have the highest natural growth rate of all the provinces (0.18%).

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Map 1: Net Population Movement for Alberta January 1 to March 31, 2016

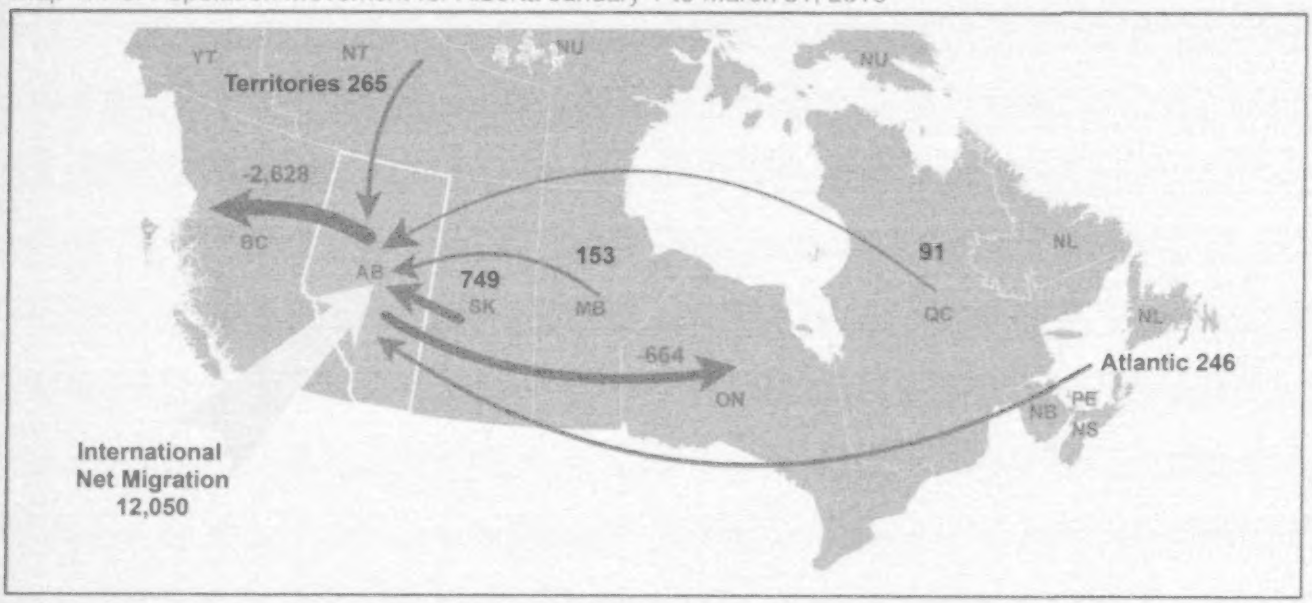

Table 3: Origin and Destination of Interprovincial Migrants January 1 to March 31, 2016

Origin \ Destination	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
NL	0	41	258	94	48	716	62	56	800	84	9	0	29
PEI	15	0	153	74	17	265	15	0	163	48	14	0	6
NS	325	139	0	497	66	1,507	55	78	1,053	400	47	32	79
NB	111	96	622	0	319	899	25	76	710	237	32	24	16
QC	37	30	99	372	0	3,379	88	64	856	773	0	23	18
ON	598	224	1,238	777	2,606	0	994	706	3,989	3,949	98	119	167
MB	71	9	64	75	110	1,182	0	680	1,022	1,103	9	14	36
SK	78	4	113	85	63	848	614	0	2,779	1,056	26	37	0
AB	787	152	892	649	765	4,653	869	2,030	0	7,481	20	187	49
BC	108	5	415	289	479	2,819	443	617	4,853	0	175	113	47
YT	6	0	0	10	12	63	0	27	180	157	0	35	7
NWT	30	37	35	15	5	80	12	36	314	94	30	0	57
NVT	46	0	56	18	28	155	55	17	27	48	3	54	0

	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
IN	2,212	737	3,945	2,955	4,518	16,566	3,232	4,387	16,746	15,430	463	638	511
OUT	2,197	770	4,278	3,167	5,739	15,465	4,375	5,703	18,534	10,363	497	745	507
NET	15	-33	-333	-212	-1,221	1,101	-1,143	-1,316	-1,788	5,067	-34	-107	4

Q4 2014		PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
Outflow to AB	800	163	1053	710	856	3989	1022	2779	0	4853	180	314	27
Inflow from AB	787	152	892	649	765	4653	869	2030	0	7481	20	187	49
Net Flow to AB	13	11	161	61	91	-664	153	749	0	-2,628	160	127	-22

Table 4: Alberta Components of Growth by Quarter

Quarters in Census Year	Interprovincial Migration			International Migration						Total	Vital Events		Total
	In	Out	Net	Immigrants	Net Non-Permanent Residents	Emigrants	Net Temporary Emigrants	Returning Emigrants	Net	Total Net Migration	Births	Deaths	Sum of Components
2011-12													
Jul-Sep	22,147	18,189	3,958	8,970	2,665	3,005	675	1,840	9,795	13,753	13,404	5,117	22,040
Oct-Dec	15,797	10,901	4,896	7,690	21	1,613	549	800	6,349	11,245	12,223	5,358	18,110
Jan-Mar	22,632	12,201	10,431	7,520	2,568	1,554	531	792	8,795	19,226	12,737	5,711	26,252
Apr-Jun	26,008	17,641	8,367	10,386	5,421	1,689	531	1,444	15,031	23,398	13,866	5,305	31,959
Total	86,584	58,932	27,652	34,566	10,675	7,861	2,286	4,876	39,970	67,622	52,230	21,491	98,361
2012-13													
Jul-Sep	25,552	15,767	9,785	9,086	3,720	2,823	663	1,953	11,273	21,058	13,851	5,320	29,589
Oct-Dec	15,730	8,026	7,704	9,103	-1,321	1,476	532	740	6,514	14,218	12,653	5,575	21,296
Jan-Mar	21,438	11,692	9,746	8,095	5,860	1,537	545	703	12,576	22,322	13,182	5,941	29,563
Apr-Jun	29,833	18,470	11,363	10,582	8,803	1,657	545	1,351	18,534	29,897	14,368	5,517	38,748
Total	92,553	53,955	38,598	36,866	17,062	7,493	2,285	4,747	48,897	87,495	54,054	22,353	119,196
2013-14													
Jul-Sep	25,511	15,277	10,234	9,156	6,166	2,853	663	1,953	13,759	23,993	14,373	5,536	32,830
Oct-Dec	16,387	10,900	5,487	8,806	846	1,492	532	740	8,368	13,855	13,138	5,797	21,196
Jan-Mar	22,290	13,522	8,768	10,351	1,434	1,554	545	703	10,389	19,157	13,676	6,173	26,660
Apr-Jun	31,613	20,720	10,893	12,753	522	1,675	545	1,351	12,406	23,299	14,891	5,727	32,463
Total	95,801	60,419	35,382	41,066	8,968	7,574	2,285	4,747	44,922	80,304	56,078	23,233	113,149
2014-15													
Jul-Sep	23,192	15,055	8,137	10,283	172	2,869	662	1,953	8,877	17,014	14,874	5,745	26,143
Oct-Dec	15,269	11,031	4,238	9,150	-7,032	1,500	532	740	826	5,064	13,538	6,012	12,590
Jan-Mar	23,944	15,662	8,282	8,197	-6,644	1,564	545	703	147	8,429	14,046	6,404	16,071
Apr-Jun	31,293	23,029	8,264	11,799	-7,711	1,686	545	1,351	3,208	11,472	15,219	5,935	20,756
Total	93,698	64,777	28,921	39,429	-21,215	7,619	2,284	4,747	13,058	41,979	57,677	24,096	75,560
2015-16													
Jul-Sep	21,225	19,991	1,234	13,982	-2,406	2,869	662	1,953	9,998	11,232	15,128	5,942	20,418
Oct-Dec	11,270	12,247	-977	13,204	-3,360	1,500	532	740	8,552	7,575	13,722	6,213	15,084
Jan-Mar	16,746	18,534	-1,788	15,356	-1,900	1,564	545	703	12,050	10,262	14,240	6,619	17,883
Apr-Jun	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	49,241	50,772	-1,531	42,542	-7,666	5,933	1,739	3,396	30,600	29,069	43,090	18,774	53,385